

Illinois Higher Ed
The Friday Memo

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July 22, 2011



Pictured, left to right, President Elaine Maimon of GSU; Stan Jones (hidden from view), president of Complete College America; Sen. Maloney, George Reid, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education; Rep. Pritchard; and Julie Smith, deputy chief of staff, Office of the Governor.

[Steering Committee convenes to begin task on performance funding](#)

A broad-based panel created to design a new performance-based funding model for Illinois higher education held its first meeting July 21 at Governors State University.

The committee, comprised of legislators, business leaders, faculty, union representatives, students, and educators, was mandated by passage of House Bill 1503, which awaits action by Governor Quinn. Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon addressed the meeting by teleconference. Also present were Reps. Chapin Rose, sponsor of HB 1503, and Naomi Jakobsson via teleconference, and Sen. Ed Maloney, Senate sponsor of HB 1503, and Rep. Bob Pritchard, who joined the committee in the GSU Hall of Honors.

Stan Jones, president of Complete College America, explained to the Steering Committee the fundamental principles and models used by other states to base state funding of colleges and universities on performance in meeting vital state goals. He noted there is not a single model that fits every state, and said that improvement in performance on key metrics like graduation numbers is the driving force of performance funding. He said the differences of institutional and sector missions should be recognized, a principle embodied in HB 1503.

[Kid stuff? Not anymore](#)

High school dropouts are more than twice as likely to be unemployed in Illinois than workers with an associate degree, and three times as likely to be jobless than persons holding bachelor's degrees. Even high school graduates are unemployed at twice the rate of bachelor's degree holders. These are among the findings of a report released recently – "Not Just Kid Stuff Anymore: the Economic Imperative for More Adults to Complete College" – by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and the Center for the Law and Social Policy.

Other findings include:

- Between 2008 and 2018 demand for college-educated workers will rise by 16 percent while demand for other workers will stay flat.
- Demand for college-educated workers in nearly half of the states will grow 2 to 3 times faster than demand for

UPCOMING

July

27 **[College Changes Everything conference](#)**,
Tinley Park Convention Center

[Illinois P-20 Council](#),
Tinley Park Convention Center

August

13 **IBHE-Student Advisory Committee meeting**,
NIU, DeKalb

16 **IBHE Board meeting**,
Chicago School of Professional Psychology

high school graduates or dropouts.

[Community colleges have key role in propelling college completion](#)

Low rates of college completion have long been a major deficiency in the performance of American higher education. Over the last decade, the extent and importance of the problem was documented by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education in the *Measuring Up* national and state report cards on higher education, and by international comparisons of educational performance.

This *Policy Alert* from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems addresses baccalaureate degree completion and the vital role of community colleges as the entry point for many students seeking bachelor's degrees. It focuses particularly on states with rapidly growing young populations, where ethnic groups and low-income students with low rates of college participation and completion are most concentrated. The report notes that community colleges are more crucial than ever, but that state financial aid and transfer policies that enable students to move from two-year colleges to baccalaureate-granting institutions are not keeping pace with current needs.

[All in the same boat . . . and the boat is sinking](#)

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) has released a new installment in its State Outlook series. This briefing discusses fiscal and state policy issues affecting postsecondary education, with a focus on dynamics influencing public higher financing at the start of the new fiscal year.

Current economic and state revenue conditions and forecasts are discussed and a 50-state composite sketch of state funding for public higher education in the new fiscal year is provided. Four-year public colleges and universities have reached the long-anticipated fiscal year 2012 "funding cliff." In addition, the paper includes a brief review of major state higher education governance reforms in the recent legislative session, as well as some commentary on the much discussed "New Normal" in state higher education financing.



Tour de Illinois

State Senator Ed Maloney takes a victory lap after a two-day, 200-mile bicycle trek from his Chicago home to the Capitol in Springfield.

[STEM jobs growing – and so is the payoff](#)

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workers drive our nation's innovation and competitiveness by generating new ideas, new companies, and new industries, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Commerce. However, U.S. businesses frequently voice concerns over the supply and availability of STEM workers. Over the past 10 years, growth in STEM jobs was three times as fast as growth in non-STEM jobs. STEM workers are also less likely to experience joblessness than their non-STEM counterparts. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workers play a key role in the sustained growth and stability of the U.S. economy, and are a critical component to helping the U.S. win the future. Some key findings of the report:

- STEM occupations are projected to grow by 17 percent from 2008 to 2018, compared to 9.8 percent growth for non-STEM occupations.

- STEM workers command higher wages, earning 26 percent more than their non-STEM counterparts.
- More than two-thirds of STEM workers have at least a college degree, compared to less than one-third of non-STEM workers.

Geographically, underachieving

According to the latest results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), less than a third of the nation's students achieve at or above the proficient level in geography. Although fourth-graders made gains in achievement since 2001, the Nation's Report Card: Geography 2010 shows that achievement by eighth-graders remained flat, and performance by twelfth-graders declined from 1994. There were a few bright spots: scores among lowest performers (bottom 10th percentile) were higher than in 1994 for all grades, and African-American and Hispanic students' scores increased in grades 4 and 8 and some achievement gaps narrowed. Yet, on the heels of NAEP report cards for civics and U.S. history, this report card for geography adds to a picture of stagnating and declining overall achievement among U.S. students in the social sciences.

Illinois colleges lead the state into Midwest tuition reciprocity program

Greenville College and Lewis & Clark Community College have signed on to accept students from neighboring Midwest states through a reduced tuition program. The Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP), a program of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), enables residents of Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and now Illinois, beginning in fall 2011, to enroll in designated institutions and programs at reduced tuition levels.

"This is an excellent opportunity to draw more students to Illinois. We are pleased to have one of our community colleges enlisted first," said Suzanne Morris, vice chair of the Illinois Community College Board and a MHEC commissioner. "It is with the efforts of Judy Rake, a former MHEC commissioner and former member of the Illinois Community College Board that a college signed on to participate. Students have been asking for this for some time, and I'm pleased that we can offer additional postsecondary access choices for students and their families."

Department of Education releases college affordability data

The U.S. Department of Education has released affordability and transparency lists as part of its effort to help students make informed decisions about their choice for higher education. "The lists are a helpful tool for students and families as they determine what college or university is the best fit for them," said Secretary Arne Duncan. "We hope this information will encourage schools to continue their efforts to make the cost of college more transparent so students make informed decisions and aren't saddled with unmanageable debts." The *Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008* called for these lists to be created by July 1 of this year. Under the requirements, six lists will be created. Three lists will focus on tuition and fees, while three lists will look at the institution's "average net price," which is the average price of attendance that is paid by full-time students after grants and scholarships are accounted for. Each list is broken out into nine different sectors, to allow students to compare costs at similar types of institutions. In addition, users can look up information on the prices of career and technical programs. The searchable database is [here](#).

MHEC schedules fall policy summit on student success

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact will hold its annual commission meeting and policy summit November 14-15, in Iowa City. The theme of the summit is: *Ready or Not Here They Come: Ensuring the College Success of All Students*.

Growing education gap contributes to increasing income disparities, Georgetown report says

The July 14 edition of Public Agenda newsletter notes that "for 30 years, the United States has failed to send an adequate number of college-educated young people into the workforce, according to a new report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce."

The Georgetown report, "The Undereducated American", was funded by the Lumina Foundation and the Bill & Melinda

Gates Foundation. It argues that unless the U.S. adds 20 million postsecondary-educated workers into the economy by 2025, America risks taking on the mantle of global leader in income inequality. The shortage of college-educated workers also threatens the efficiency of the U.S. already-fragile economy.

[‘Now more than ever,’ Lumina chief says college is the essential credential](#)

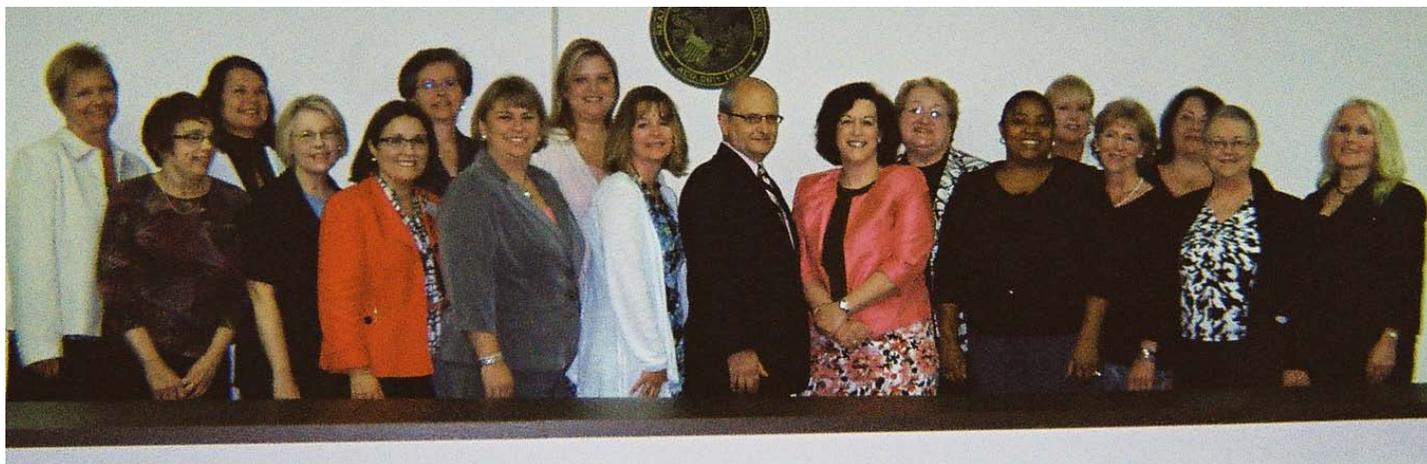
Jamie Merisotis, president of the Lumina Foundation, was the keynote speaker recently for the 20th Anniversary Conference of the European Access Network in Amsterdam. Here is what he had to say:

“We live and work in a global society. Our world is truly a shared world, one that is shrinking and flattening and becoming more tightly interconnected each day. Every satellite news feed ... every international financial transaction ... every tweet and Facebook posting ... brings us closer together as a global family.

“And now more than ever . . . higher education is the prerequisite for full and active membership in that society. If there’s one message that’s been consistent throughout this conference and implicit in conversations among representatives from every country, it’s this: Increased participation in higher education is vital ... to the economic future of individual citizens and to the stability and security of every nation.”

People in the News

The IBHE and the Advisory Board for the Illinois Center for Nursing recognized the 2011 Nurse Educator Fellows during the advisory board's June meeting. This distinguished group of nursing faculty were nominated by their schools of nursing and competed against 32 applicants to become part of this select group of 18 Nurse Educator Fellows in fiscal year 2011. This program helps to ensure the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty at institutions of higher learning by providing a one-time salary supplement to the fellows.



FY 2011 Nurse Educator Fellowship Award Recipients
Back Row (left to right) 1) Ann Popkess, PhD, RN; 2) Susan Sw anlund, PhD, RN; 3) Denise Wilson; PhD, APN, CNP; 4) Tracy Wollin, MSN, RN; 5) Polly Zimmerman, MS, MBA, CEN, RN, FAEN; 6) Jeanette Rossetti, EdD, RN; 7) Donna Jew ell, PhD, RN;
Front Row (left to right) 1) Debra J. Jenkins, MSN, RN; 2) Mary Teresa Johnson, MSN, RN, FNP-BC; 3) Patty Kershaw, DNP (C), MSN, RN; 4) Tonya Rutherford-Hemmings, MSN, RN, APRN-BC; 5) Teresa Kisch, MSN, RN; 6) IBHE: Don Sevener, IBHE Deputy Director for External Affairs; 7) Michele Bromberg, MSN, APN, BC, Advisory Board Chair; 8) Tanisha Rufus, MSN, RN; 9) Monica Ryan, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC; 10) Carrol A. M. Smith, PhD, RN; 11) Patrice Pence, PhD, RN; Unable to attend, Karen Barber, MS, RN and Dawn Kuerschner, MSN, APN-BC, CNE.

Plant biologist [Lon Kaufman](#), a long-time faculty member of the University of Illinois at Chicago who rose through the ranks as department head, dean, and vice provost, has been named provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UIC. His appointment becomes effective Aug. 15. Kaufman, a member of the UIC community for over 26 years, "has the breadth and depth of experience that we need moving forward during these challenging times," said UIC Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares. "His values reflect UIC in the most profound way, and he will be a force for our continued growth and recognition as the premier urban public research university we have become."

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) announces the appointment of [Frank E. Ross, Ph.D.](#) as vice president for student life, effective August 1. Ross has more than 15 years of demonstrated success in higher education student life administration. His extensive experience will provide a strong foundation as Northeastern continues to focus strategically on student success. Sharon Hahs, NEIU president, said, "We look forward to Dr. Ross' leadership as Northeastern strives to maximize the potential of student life through strong partnerships with academic affairs and the surrounding community. He will bring all areas of the student life division together to enhance each student's experience at Northeastern."

[Gerald Blazey](#), a Distinguished Research Professor of Physics at Northern Illinois University and special adviser for science to NIU President John Peters, will lend his expertise in the coming years to another president: Barack Obama. Blazey has accepted a two-year post as a senior policy adviser for the physical sciences in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). He now reports directly to Carl Wieman, who was confirmed in September by the U.S. Senate to serve as the OSTP Associate Director for Science.

[Dr. Robert E. Ritschel](#), Spoon River College President, has announced his plans for retirement in July, 2012. He has served as the college's seventh president since August of 2005 following his appointment by the Spoon River College Board of Trustees. "This is an appropriate time for the college to search for a new President, as my retirement will follow the accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission in February 2012," said Dr. Ritschel.

Campus News

[SXU receives nearly \\$300,000 grant to train Chicago Public Schools teachers](#)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) recently awarded Saint Xavier University's School of Education with a \$296,966 grant to train Chicago Public School elementary teachers how to more effectively help students learn critical thinking skills. The IBHE grant will fund the "Developing 21st Century Critical Thinking Skills" program, which focuses on educating teachers to develop young children's cognitive skills such as self-regulation, attention, reasoning, problem solving and fine motor skills. Additionally, it trains teachers to assess the development of concepts such as spatial relationships, numbers and weights. "It is crucial that teachers understand how important it is for students in the 21st century to learn how to think critically and become accomplished learners in math, science, literacy, and all subjects that impact their lives," said SXU School of Education Dean Beverly Gulley.

[WIU finalizes DoD contract for QC Manufacturing Lab](#)

In the last decade, the U.S. military has seen an increased demand for high performance structural materials that are also lightweight. More specifically, the Army has seen an increased demand for lightweight armament systems using titanium, aluminum and magnesium. This challenge has led to the creation of the Quad Cities Manufacturing Lab (QCML), a nonprofit research and development company at the Rock Island Arsenal and operated under contract with Western Illinois University's College of Business and Technology (CBT). Last month, the QCML and WIU finalized a five-year contract with the Department of Defense for research and development of technologies and capabilities associated with manufacturing and processing parts using titanium, aluminum, magnesium and other light weight metals and metal composites.

[\\$7 million grant fuels agricultural research effort](#)

Central Illinois is the home of some of the best agricultural soil in the world. Its black color bespeaks its rich and productive nature. Now, researchers from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, with the help of a philanthropic

agriculture booster, are embarking on a multiyear research project that will test dozens of techniques and parameters in hopes of finding the best, most efficient and productive ways to use this vast natural resource. What they find also could have major implications and benefits for farmers and societies around the world. The Howard G. Buffett Foundation is providing \$7 million to a multidisciplinary team of SIUC researchers. During at least the next six years, the team will examine the best ways to maximize agriculture in central Illinois.

News from Higher Education

[Lt. Gov.: Colleges prepare workers for green jobs](#) (Springfield State Journal-Register)

CHICAGO — Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon says community colleges are playing an important role preparing workers for jobs with the wind energy industry.

[College presidents, students lobby to keep Pell Grant funding](#) (The Washington Post)

Before agreeing to raise the federal debt ceiling, Republican lawmakers want Democrats to agree to a number of budget cuts. Some of the proposed plans call for cuts to the Federal Pell Grant Program, which allows many of the country's poorest students to attend college.

[Illinois tests a financial incentive for transfer students](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)

Like their peers across the country, students in Illinois can save money by starting at a community college.

[Official: State funds an issue in university aspirations](#) (Peoria Journal Star)

Board of Higher Education chief says state's woes could complicate prospect of Peoria getting a four-year state university.

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